

HOUSE BILL 1718

By Pody

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 1; Title 49, Chapter 2 and Title 49, Chapter 6, relative to parental access to student assessments.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 60, is amended by adding the following language as a new section:

(a)

(1) A parent shall have access to the test questions and the parent's student's answers on the Tennessee comprehensive assessment program (TCAP) tests, the end-of-course examinations, or any other state-required standardized summative assessments administered to the parent's student within sixty (60) days after the last date for the administration of the test. The department of education, according to guidelines and policies adopted by the state board of education, shall provide a parent, upon the parent's request, with a username and password that allow the parent to view electronically the parent's student's test and answers or a paper copy of the test and the student's answers.

(2) Any electronic access to a test and a student's answers shall be from a secure web site on servers maintained by the state or a vendor with whom the state contracts. Only the student's parent and teachers, as provided in subsection (b), using a unique username and password shall be able to access the student's test and answers from the web site.

(3) The department of education shall work with the LEA and the appropriate testing companies to ensure that the viewing of paper copies of a

student's test and answers by a parent does not breach any testing security laws or policies.

(b) A teacher shall have access to a test administered to a student and the student's answers to assist the teacher in determining the student's mastery of state standards; in planning instruction and support for the student's learning needs; and in improving the teacher's instruction for all students. A teacher's access to tests and students' answers shall be limited to students the teacher is currently teaching in the subject tested and to students the teacher taught in the subject tested in the school year in which the test was given.

(c) As used in this section, "parent" means the parent, guardian, or person who has custody of the child, or the individual who has caregiving authority under § 49-6-3001.

(d) The department, in consultation with the state board, shall provide a report to include the number of parents requesting access to their student's test, security concerns, if any, by the vendors of the test, and any additional information the department finds necessary for the report. The report shall be sent electronically to the members of the education committee of the senate, the education administration and planning committee of the house of representatives, and the education instruction and programs committee of the house of representatives no later than March 1 of the year following the year of administration of the test.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-6007, is amended by adding the following language as a new subsection:

( ) An LEA shall include, with the information required to be posted under subsection (b), a statement that informs parents how they can view the questions on their students' state-required summative standardized assessments and their students' answers. An LEA shall also annually provide this information to parents by the other methods of dissemination under subsection (b) that it has chosen or that are required,

including publication in each school's student handbook, or other standard or policy guidebook that contains the policies and procedures of the school.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016, the public welfare requiring it.